THE FOURTH DAY.

18th February 1915.

The Assembly met at 11-30 A. M. on Thursday, the 18th February 1915.

42. The Travancore Police Department.

Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Kayenkulam) observed that, till 1088, the Police Department had only 3 District Superintendents, 57 charging stations and 117 sub-stations. Each of the charging stations was under a Station House Officer controlled by the Sub-Inspector. Cases were investigated and prosecuted either by the Station House Officer himself or by the Station House Officer and the Sub-Inspector conjointly. In those days, detection of cases was more prompt and most of the cases charged ended in conviction. The reorganisation of the department in 1088 was hailed with joy by the people. The Member, however, regretted to have to say that the results of the reorganisation were disappointing. The reorganisation resulted in an additional expenditure of about a lac of rupees owing to the appointment of a fourth District Superintendent, of Circle Inspectors, of Prosecuting Inspectors and a number of additional Sub-Inspectors. The Constables and the Head Constables were severely left alone, and that, in the opinion of the Member, constituted the weakest point in the whole scheme.

Another defect in the reorganisation was the abolition of several out-post stations. He cited as instances the sub-stations at Thottapalli, Pallathuruthi, Punnamada and Kayenkulam lake and said that those stations were serving a useful public purpose; but their abolition had produced a feeling of public insecurity in the localities concerned. Even the existing out-post stations were not maintained in a way calculated to serve the object with which they were established and he added that some of them were not inspected even once, in 1089, by the Circle Inspectors.

A third defect in the new scheme was the way in which cases were conducted. The cases were charged by the Sub-Inspectors and the prosecution was conducted by the Prosecuting Inspectors. That system did not work satisfactorily. The Prosecuting Inspectors, who travelled from place to place, could not devote as much attention to the conduct of the cases and bestow as much interest on them as the Sub-Inspectors who conducted the preliminary investigation. He therefore suggested that the Government might be pleased to look into the matter and do the needful.

The Member next proceeded to consider the statistics of 1088 and 1089 as disclosed in the Administration Report for 1089 and said that the quality of the work of the department had gone down considerably under most heads. In conclusion, the Member made the following suggestions for the favourable consideration of the Government :—

(1) The practice of transferring cognisable cases to the undetected list should not be followed indiscriminately, lest it should eventually tend to indifference on the part of officers in detecting cases.

(2) The number of District Superintendents should be reduced to three, as one Superintendent would be quite enough for both the Trivandrum and Padmanabhapuram Divisions.

(3) The Circle Inspectors and the Prosecuting Inspectors were superfluous and should be dispensed with. Their work would be more than amply done by competent Sub-Inspectors.

(4) The designation 'Sub-Inspector' should be changed to 'Police Inspector'.

(5) Head Constables should be permitted to charge cases as before.

(6) There should be three grades of Head Constables on Rs. 25, Rs. 20, and Rs. 15 respectively and two grades of Constables on Rs. 12 and Rs. 10 respectively.

(7) Enlistment of constables should be made with due care, men of

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average education and respectability alone being selected for the purpose. That would reduce the chances of prosecution of policemen.

(8) The Police should be instructed to bestow sufficient care and attention on the cases referred to them by the Magistracy.

(9) The Commissioner and the District Superintendents of Police should possess intimate knowledge of the country, its laws and customs and language. Only such men should be appointed to the above posts.

(10) The direction of the Government that the Magistracy should exercise more freely the discretion vested in them by law in the matter of awarding compensation to accused persons so as to check vexatious prosecution of Policemen, was improper and should not be rigidly enforced.

(11) In cases which were referred as false by the Police, the Magistracy should not be compelled to sanction the prosecution of the complainants in all cases. The Magistrates should have free discretion in the matter.

(12) Local arrangements should be made for the training of Police Officers, so as to avoid the heavy expenditure incurred at present in deputing the men to Vellore for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

IV. PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture and other Industries.

43. Certain difficulties experienced by the ryots of Nanjinad in the matter of cultivation and suggestions for remedying the same.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) said that the following were the grievances of the ryots of Nanjinad in the matter of cultivation :—

(1) Although the date of opening the Kodayar reservoir had been fixed at the 20th May every year, water was not let out in time and therefore the crops failed.

(2) The Irrigation Department was not sufficiently sympathetic to the ryots nd did not endeavour to promote the interests of cultivation. The department was indifferent to the proper and timely supply of water, and hence the crops were seriously affected.

(3) There was serious public apprehension that the capacity of the Kodayar reservoir was insufficient to supply all the water required by the area commanded by the Project, and therefore the indiscriminate sale of tank-beds, which served a useful irrigation purpose, was calculated to produce disastrous consequences to the ryots of Nanjinad. The tank-beds were useful for the collection and storage of surplus water and for the grazing of cattle, and their disposal had rendered the above two purposes difficult of accomplishment.

(4) The order of the Government to dismantle the Pillapattu Dam in the Pazhayar river, instead of conserving the same in the interests of agriculture, would prove to be disastrous to the cultivation of the lands concerned. The loss to the Government thereby would be 15 times the cost of maintaining the said dam.

(5) The Pazhayar river annually flooded its banks and destroyed cultivation. That would not occur if parts of its banks were repaired, portions of the river were widened and other necessary improvements carried out.

(6) The want of sufficient grazing grounds in Nanjinad seriously affected the cattle of the place.

(7) The ryots and the officers of the Government felt considerable difficulty for want of roads to proceed to the several blocks commanded by the Tovala channel.

(8) The petitions presented by the ryots in regard to the repairs of the irrigation channels etc., had to be duly stamped with a half-rupee stamp. That was a hardship to them.

(9) The want of permanent sluices between the 7th and 19th miles of the Tovala channel was a source of avoidable loss to the ryots and to the Irrigation Department.

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